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RURAL DISTRICT OF TAMWORTH

Warwickshire

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[Signature]
ANNUAL REPORT

of the



Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1963

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Tamworth Rural
District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Report on the state of the public health of the Tamworth Rural District for the year 1963. In accordance with the usual agreed practice, I have omitted any special reference to the many social services administered by me as Area Medical Officer on behalf of the Warwickshire County Council. The relevant information regarding these—school medical work, health education, maternity and child welfare, domestic help, care and after-care—will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical and Principal School Medical Officer for the year under review.

In keeping with world-wide trends the population of the District increased by 1,480 over the previous year to 21,170—a rise of 7% and the highest ever recorded for two succeeding years.

Once again, the general health of the community was satisfactory and no serious outbreaks of notifiable, infectious diseases occurred. Nevertheless, the total incidence of these increased almost five-fold from the low figure of 74 in 1962 to 369. This was largely due to the outbreak of Measles involving 353 persons mainly in the Wilnecote parish and mentioned later in the Report.

However, evidence of the general decline in the prevalence of diseases heretofore associated with childhood was the notification of only one case of whooping cough and four of scarlet fever with none of pneumonia in the lower age groups.

Another noteworthy exception was the absence of Poliomyelitis in any form for the sixth successive year and of diphtheria for more than twelve years.

Only three cases of dysentery, the majority in adults, came to light.

Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis rose from four to six, again chiefly in young adults but still in keeping with the overall picture of a general decline in this hitherto dreaded disease.

Generally speaking, water supplies throughout the district were wholesome and ample and detailed information regarding their source is recorded in the body of the Report.

Refuse collection and disposal was carried out without any serious labour problems and discussions continued with the Tamworth Borough Council regarding the joint scheme for the installation of a pulverising plant which would help to overcome the increasing difficulty of finding suitable disposal sites.

Recording of atmospheric pollution continued on a regular basis for the fifth successive year within the framework of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council and the results tabulated elsewhere are worthy of close study.

Regarding housing, a noteworthy contribution to the general pool was the completion of 413 dwellings—only 11 fewer than the 1962 figure. Of these, 242 resulted from private enterprise, while 171 units of accommodation were constructed under Council auspices—approximately half for general needs and slum clearance and half for the very successful “houses for sale scheme.” At the close of the year almost 300 houses—half by private enterprise—were under construction and should make a sizeable contribution to the continuing and increasing problem of meeting a great need.

Once again it is pleasing to be able to report the absence of any cases of food poisoning and this satisfactory state of affairs is reflected in the good general standard of food premises and mobile vehicles in the preparation and sale of food stuffs.

Regarding meat inspection, as mentioned in my 1962 report, shortage of staff whereby the Inspectorate was reduced to one, prevented 100% coverage. In fact, this unsatisfactory state of affairs continued until the 1st November, 1963 when one additional Health Inspector commenced work. This welcome addition to the staff followed closely on the operative date of the Meat Inspection Regulations on the 1st October, 1963 which make 100% meat inspection a statutory obligation. Conditions at the three licenced slaughter houses continued to be satisfactory and the generally high quality of the meat is reflected in the low quantity of meat and offal condemned—19 cwts. With the exception of pigs, no evidence of tuberculosis was found in any carcass and no cases of “measley” beef came to light.

In the preparation of this report the sections concerning environmental hygiene have been compiled by my Senior Public Health Inspector. Information regarding drainage and sewerage and refuse collection/disposal has been given by the Engineer and Surveyor. At the same time your Housing Manager has furnished details concerning housing.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of your encouragement and support and express my gratitude for the ready co-operation and assistance from the staff and also from the other Departments of your Council.

R. S. McELROY,
Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
Coleshill.
August, 1964.

TAMWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1963

Chairman of the Council :
CYRIL WOOD

Vice-Chairman of the Council :
WILLIAM NEWBURY

Clerk of the Council :
S. W. DEWES

Public Health Committee :
All the Members of the Council
Chairman : **W. H. KING**

Housing Committee :
All the Members of the Council
Chairman : **S. A. ALLSOP**

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1963

Medical Officer of Health :
R. S. McELROY, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.
(also Medical Officer of Health, Meriden Rural District Council,
and Area Medical Officer, North Western Area, Warwickshire
County Council)

Senior Public Health Inspector :
G. J. WATTS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert. Meat and Foods

Additional Public Health Inspector :
C. A. STANLEY

Chief Clerk :
J. D. MYNARD, L.M.R.S.H.

Council Offices :
92, Lichfield Street,
TAMWORTH,
Staffs.
Tel. : Tamworth 3755/6.

Office of Medical Officer of Health :
Area Health Office,
Park Road, COLESHILL,
Nr. Birmingham.
Tel. : Coleshill 2331/2.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in Acres	22,032
Population (Registrar General's estimate Mid-1963)	21,170
„ (1961 Census)	19,036
„ (1951 „)	16,118
„ (1931 „)	14,151
Number of inhabited premises (March 1963)—	
Houses	6,427
Shops	146
Public Houses	26
Rateable Value (1st April, 1963)	£626,824
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,556

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

Comparability Factor: 0.90

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	201	237	438
Illegitimate	5	12	17
Totals	206	249	455

Crude Birth Rate.

21.49 per 1,000 estimated population.

Standardised Birth Rate.

19.34 per 1,000 estimated population.

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
21.49	20.16	21.49	18.92	17.32	17.3	16.9	19.0	16.0	16.5

Still Births.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	4	4	8

Still Birth Rate.

17.27 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
17.27	19.75	19.13	14.66	34.7	28.7	24.2	18.3	25.1	14.5

Illegitimate Live Births.

(per cent of total live births) = 3.73.

Total Live and Still Births = 463.

Deaths.

Comparability Factor: 1.31

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes . .	111	66	177

Crude Death Rate.

8.36 per 1,000 estimated population.

Standardised Death Rate.

10.95 per 1,000 estimated population.

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
8.36	9.04	10.03	9.18	9.3	9.8	8.8	8.4	8.7	8.4

Classified Causes of Death.

	Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	15	1	16
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	5	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	11	24
18.	Coronary disease, angina	20	9	29
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	4
20.	Other heart disease	5	12	17
21.	Other circulatory disease	7	3	10
22.	Influenza	2	1	3
23.	Pneumonia	4	1	5
24.	Bronchitis	14	3	17
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	—	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	10	11	21
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	4	—	4
34.	All other accidents	5	2	7
35.	Suicide	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
37.	All causes	111	66	177

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	8	2	10
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Totals	8	3	11
	—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate 24.17 per 1,000 births.

1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
24.17	27.98	21.9	11.9	35.9	23.0	9.8	37.3	33.1	22.1

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Totals	6	3	9
	—	—	—

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births=21.97.

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births = 5.88.

Neo-natal Mortality Rate, 1963 : 19.78 per 1,000 live births.

(Compared with 14.63 per 1,000 live births in 1961 and 17.63 per 1,000 live births in 1962).

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) = 15.38.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Total	5	2	7
	—	—	—

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still births and Deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) = 3.23.

Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.

	Tamworth Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)
Births :		
Live Births	*19.34	18.2
Still Births	17.27(a)	17.3(a)
Deaths :		
All causes	*10.95	12.2
Infant Mortality	24.17(b)	20.9(b)
Neonatal Mortality	19.78(b)	

*Using comparability factors (Births 0.90 and Deaths 1.31)

(a) per 1,000 total live and still births.

(b) per 1,000 live births.

Maternal Deaths .. Nil.

Deaths due to Malignant Disease.

	Males	Females	Total
All Causes	22	11	33

Cancer Death Rate : 1.55 per 1,000 population.

GENERAL COMMENT

Population

Compared with 1962 there was a double increase of 1,480 to 21,170 in the population. This is in keeping with the general trends especially with the increasing industrialization and dormitory development in certain parts of the district.

Births

At 21.49 per 1,000 head of population the crude birth rate increased and indicates a considerable rise since 1953 when the figure was 17.0. Indeed, this figure compares very favourably with that of 18.2 for England and Wales.

Deaths

Once again the maternal mortality rate was nil and this satisfactory state of affairs reflects the care and skill of all concerned whether domiciliary or institutional, not only during the actual confinement but also in the ante-natal period when regular examinations enable any adverse conditions to be diagnosed and suitable measures taken in good time.

There were 111 male and 66 female deaths from all causes and a total of 178 for the year with a slight increase in male and a decline in female mortality over the 1962 figures. This gives a Crude Death Rate of 8.36 per 1,000 estimated population and

a Standardized or adjusted rate of 10.95 using the Comparability Factor supplied by the Registrar General.

The standardized or adjusted rate for births and deaths is obtained by multiplying the crude rate by the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General. By this means, allowance is made in a particular area for the difference in age and sex distribution of the population in the various zones throughout England and Wales. Consideration is also given to boundary changes and also any rapid increases or decrease in the sex and age groups of the inhabitants of certain localities including those in residential institutions and sterile population in homes for sub-normal or severely sub-normal people.

As will be seen in a preceding page, the chief causes of death continued to be diseases of the heart and circulation which are the commonest cause of male mortality. Only one person died from cancer of the stomach but 15 men and 1 woman succumbed to cancer of the lung, a marked increase over the 1962 figure (6). While there were only 3 deaths from influenza, pneumonia accounted for 5. Again, Bronchitis caused 17 fatalities—14 males and 3 females—twice the total for the previous year. Five deaths arose from motor vehicle accidents.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Total number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1963
(Giving age groups, deaths and admissions to hospital).

Notifiable Disease	Number of cases notified							Total cases removed to Hospital	Total deaths	
	At all ages	Under 1	At Ages—years							65 and up-w'ds.
			1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65			
Measles	353	18	163	169	3	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	5
Scarlet Fever	4	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	—	—	1	—	4	1	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	369	18	164	175	3	6	2	1	—	5

Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.

	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Measles	353	64	379	171	134	25	227	4	410	13
Whooping Cough ..	1	—	4	8	4	24	7	76	8	19
Pneumonia	2	5	7	9	9	10	11	7	12	4
Scarlet Fever ..	4	3	5	9	27	15	8	5	8	27
Erysipelas	—	—	1	2	2	—	2	2	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Non-paralytic....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	2	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	1	8	3	7	7	8	9	8	9
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	2	—	3	1	2	—	2	1
Food Poisoning....	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	369	74	406	206	186	84	269	105	453	75

Distribution of Cases of Infectious Disease.

Area	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Dysentery	Whooping Cough
Shuttington	8	—	—	1	—	—
Wilnecote	127	1	—	1	—	—
Hurley.....	8	1	—	3	—	—
Glascote	73	1	1	1	—	—
Amington	26	—	—	—	—	—
Newton Regis ..	2	—	—	—	—	1
Kingsbury	77	1	—	—	—	—
Middleton	12	—	—	—	—	—
Nomans Heath ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Austrey	7	—	—	—	—	—
Kettlebrook	8	—	—	—	—	—
Seckington	3	—	1	—	3	—
Totals	353	4	2	6	3	1

Infectious Disease.

Notifications increased from 74 to 369 largely due to the increased incidence of Measles mentioned below.

Measles.

In keeping with its tendency to occur in alternate years, notifications increased nearly six-fold to 353 cases with the great majority almost equally divided between the 1-5 and 5-15 year age groups, but fortunately, with no untoward results.

Whooping Cough.

Only one case was recorded—a very satisfactory state of affairs—likely to be due in no small measure to immunisation against this erstwhile serious malady.

Particulars of the innoculation campaign are as follows :—

	Age at Date of Injection					
	Under 1	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	Total
Primary	109	105	2	2	—	218
Reinforcing	1	126	21	15	—	163
Totals	110	231	23	17	—	391

Scarlet Fever.

Only 4 cases occurred, the second lowest figure since 1957 when 8 cases were notified.

Dysentery.

Only 3 reports were received and the occurrence of only 9 cases since 1953 reveals a very satisfactory state of affairs compared with other parts of the country where the disease appears to be endemic.

Poliomyelitis.

No cases have been recorded since 1957, in fact only 4 notifications have been made over the thirteen year period 1951-62.

The following Table shows the position regarding the vaccination campaign in the Meriden and Tamworth Rural District since its inception in 1956 up to the 31st December, 1963.

Completed Poliomyelitis Vaccinations as at 31st December, 1963.

Age	Primary		Booster		Fourths		Totals		Grand Total
	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	
0-15	332	20,282	2,420	18,218	677	8,208	3,429	46,708	50,137
15-25	48	4,896	297	4,005	13	9	358	8,910	9,268
25-40	292	3,860	248	4,663	18	15	558	8,538	9,096
Expectant Mothers	8	1,204	36	1,192	5	—	49	2,396	2,445
Others	40	1,129	282	1,048	19	15	341	2,192	2,533
Totals	720	31,371	3,283	29,126	732	8,247	4,735	68,744	73,479

Tuberculosis.

At the close of the year 77 names were registered of which 64 were Pulmonary and 13 of the non-Pulmonary type of the disease. Of the former, seven new cases occurred in the district and six were inward transfers, while four names were removed from the Register. The position regarding the latter is unchanged.

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths notified during 1963.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	7	6	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1963.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1962	33	22	8	5
2. New Cases	5	2	—	—
3. Inward Transfers	2	4	—	—
4. Removals	2	2	—	—
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1963	38	26	8	5

Sampling of milk is carried out by the County Health Department and the table sub-pended summarizes the investigations in respect of this District—a satisfactory result.

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1963.

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Tuberculin Tested	5	Nil.

Food Poisoning.

A Nil return is a reassuring indication of the high standards of hygiene now prevalent not only among producers and purveyors of food stuffs but also in the places where meals are prepared and served.

Diphtheria.

For the sixteenth successive year no case of diphtheria came to light. Immunisation was given by family doctors and at Child Welfare Centres and schools where the ready co-operation of those in charge is much appreciated.

A “triple vaccine” combining protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is usually accepted thereby reducing the number of injections needed.

Total number of Immunisations against Diphtheria during 1963.

	Age at Date of Injection					
	Under 1	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	Total
Primary	109	66	2	2	—	179
Reinforcing	1	127	49	199	85	461
Totals	110	193	51	201	85	640

Smallpox.

Vaccination is carried out at Child Welfare Centres and by Family Doctors.

Total number of vaccinations during 1963.

	Age at Date of Injection					
	Under 1	1 year	2—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Vaccinated	12	81	21	7	12	133
Re-vaccinated . .	—	—	—	3	21	24
Totals	12	81	21	10	33	157

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Cases continued to be referred by General Practitioners for investigation and assessment for institutional care—chronic sick or Part III Accommodation (in conjunction with the Senior Social Welfare Officer), but, in no instance was statutory action on my part necessary under Section 47 of the Act which deals with compulsory removal.

Senior Public Health Inspector's Report

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA WATER

Water continued to be supplied to the district by:—

1. The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.
2. The City of Birmingham Water Department.

The quality of water supplied continued to be satisfactory, and there was no evidence of plumbosolvency.

Works for improving the supplies to various parts of the district were carried out, and other works of a more extensive nature are planned by the water authorities.

All mains water is chlorinated, and regular and frequent samples, both bacteriological and chemical, are taken before and after chlorination either by the local authority or the respective water authorities.

Average chemical results of samples taken by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company at Austrey and Middleton show:—

	<i>Austrey</i>	<i>Middleton</i>
pH	7.5	7.4
<i>Expressed in parts per million</i>		
Alkalinity (Ca.C 03)	50	129
Chlorides (Cl)	74.1	26.6
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) .....	.057	.005
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	Trace	.001
Oxidised Nitrogen (N) .....	.7	8.1
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hr. @ 27°C.) ..	.12	.18
Temporary Hardness	45	122
Permanent Hardness	128	110
Total Hardness	173	232
Iron (Fe)	Trace	.03
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	Nil
Lead (Pb)	Nil	Nil

Towards the end of the year a survey was commenced of all properties not served by mains water, and from preliminary reports and information kindly supplied by both the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and the City of Birmingham Water Department, it is estimated that approximately 95.28% of the population, and 99.56% of the dwellings in the district are served by mains water as shown in the following table.

Parish	Estimated population	Estimated number of dwellings	Dwellings supplied by :			Estimated population served
			South Staffs. Water-works Co.	City of Birmingham Water Dept.	Others	
Austrey	330	85	84	—	—	325
Newton Regis	545	144	143	—	—	542
Seckington . .	70	20	20	—	—	70
Shuttington .	684	184	182	—	—	677
Amington . .	2,493	720	720	—	—	2,493
Glascote	3,412	1,017	1,017	—	—	3,412
Kingsbury . .	7,194	1,903	429	1,461	—	7,150
Middleton . .	758	178	169	1	—	728
Wilnecote . .	8,068	2,303	2,289	6	2	8,048
Totals	23,554	6,554	5,053	1,468	2	23,445

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Austrey

Sewage from the village drains to Warton Lane from where it is pumped to the Newton Regis works.

Newton Regis

Sewage from the Hamlet of Noman's Heath and the village of Newton Regis drains to the Newton Regis works.

Seckington

Sewage from the village drains to the Newton Regis works.

Shuttington

Sewage from Shuttington village is pumped to the Newton Regis works.

Sewage from Alvecote is pumped to the Amington Works.

Amington

With the exception of a few outlying houses and farms, the parish of Amington is fully sewered, draining to the Amington Works.

Glascote

Glascote drains to the sewers of the Tamworth Joint Sewage Committee.

Dosthill

Dosthill with the exception of the Hamlet of Whateley, which is not sewered, drains to the Dosthill works.

Wilnecote

Kettlebrook, Belgrave, Two Gates and Wilnecote, except parts of Hockley, are drained to the Tamworth Joint Sewage Committee's sewers, the remaining part to the Dosthill Works.

Kingsbury

Drained to the Cliff Works with a pumping station at Coventry Road, Kingsbury to pump sewage from the lower end into the gravity sewers.

Wood End

Drained to the Old Rail Works at Hurley.

Hurley

Drained to works at Old Rail Farm, with a pumping station at Rockingham to pump sewage from lower end of village into gravity main.

Middleton

The village of Middleton is drained to works at Church Lane, Middleton.

Bassets Pole is drained to works at Hill Lane, Bassetts Pole.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The continued low incidence of disease again necessitated very little work being done in this field. It was confined to enquiries in cases of scarlet fever and one family affected by sonne dysentery.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The system of collecting refuse by direct labour, under the control of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, continued to give a regular collection throughout the district.

The scarcity of land for tipping continued to cause alarm, but at the end of the year negotiations were successful for a site which will ease the situation for a few years. The plan for providing a pulverisation plant is still being considered in conjunction with the Tamworth Borough Council.

The acquisition of a Europa Tractor to replace the Chaseside Shovel has meant improved control of tipping, and as a result no serious infestations of flies, crickets or rats were experienced.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	13	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	45	7	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out-workers premises)	16	—	—	—
Totals	74	7	—	—

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

As a member of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council, the Council continued to operate recording gauges consisting of one deposit gauge, five lead peroxide instruments and two daily smoke and volumetric instruments. The latter two are operated by senior scholars of the Kingsbury and Wilnecote High Schools, under the guidance of their science masters, and I am grateful to the Headmasters, staff and scholars for their co-operation.

It is interesting and pleasing to note that the readings of the deposit gauge and district average of sulphur as recorded by the lead peroxide gauges is the lowest since readings commenced in 1959.

The results are shown in Tables I to V.

One application for prior approval was received from the National Coal Board in respect of a new boiler installation at Kingsbury Colliery and approved.

TABLE I
DEPOSIT GAUGE

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rainfall in inches</i>	<i>Water insoluble matter</i>	<i>Water soluble matter</i>	<i>Total Tons Per sq. mile</i>
1959	18.95	101.94	58.58	160.52
1960	33.78	102.74	78.62	181.36
1961	18.95	88.94	58.06	147.00
1962	20.35	117.69	52.58	170.27
1963	18.34	79.06	53.39	132.45

TABLE II
LEAD PEROXIDE INSTRUMENTS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amington</i>	<i>Newton Regis</i>	<i>Wilnecote, Watling Street</i>	<i>Wood End</i>	<i>Wilnecote, New Road</i>	<i>District Average</i>
1959	1.42	.93	1.38	1.27	—	1.25
1960	1.39	.94	1.38	1.19	1.82	1.34
1961	1.40	.78	1.32	1.11	1.63	1.25
1962	1.20	.80	1.30	1.18	1.50	1.20
1963	1.20	.85	1.19	1.11	1.64	1.19

The above figures represent the monthly average weight of sulphur dioxide collected in m.g. 100 sq. cm. /day.

TABLE III
DEPOSIT GAUGE 1963

	<i>Rain Collected in inches</i>	<i>Water insoluble matter</i>	<i>Water soluble matter</i>	<i>Total Solids Tons per sq. mile</i>
January	0.94	2.22	6.16	8.38
February	0.74	10.17	2.05	12.22
March	2.40	15.27	5.37	20.64
April	2.31	7.12	4.74	11.86
May	1.84	8.54	4.07	12.61
June	1.75	9.60	3.41	13.01
July	1.50	0.63	3.11	3.74
August	—	—	—	—
September	1.10	6.56	4.64	11.20
October	1.95	6.96	10.33	17.29
November	3.44	7.29	6.79	14.08
December	0.37	4.70	2.72	7.42
Totals	18.34	79.06	53.39	132.45
Average winter months	1.64	7.76	5.57	13.33
Average summer months	1.70	6.49	3.99	10.48

TABLE IV
LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1963
 wt of SO₃ collected m.g./100 sq. cm./day

	<i>Amington</i>	<i>Newton Regis</i>	<i>Wilnecote</i>	<i>Wood End</i>	<i>Wilnecote School</i>
January	1.9	1.7	2.3	2.4	3.9
February	2.0	1.7	2.3	2.3	3.2
March	1.7	0.9	1.4	1.0	2.0
April	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.5
May	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.3
June	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8
July	0.6	0.25	0.7	0.5	0.9
August	0.5	0.35	0.5	0.25	0.7
September	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.1
October	1.2	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.4
November	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.1	0.9
December	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.5	2.0
Average Summer months	0.80	0.51	0.78	0.71	1.13
Average Winter months	1.61	1.18	1.60	1.51	2.23
Monthly Average	1.20	0.85	1.19	1.11	1.64

TABLE V
DAILY SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE DURING 1963
(Microgrammes per cubic foot of air)

Month	WILNECOTE						KINGSBURY						Ratio Smoke/ SO ₂
	Smoke			SO ₂			Smoke			SO ₂			
	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	
January	544	13	200	103	3	29	488	44	136	662	57	165	0.80
February	291	1	144	297	4	105	209	94	139	195	51	130	1.00
March	364	14	114	147	ALK	41	210	11	92	383	41	127	0.70
April	116	17	72	116	ALK	19	130	32	62	110	ALK	60	1.00
May	120	23	63	85	ALK	41	78	17	41	139	35	69	0.59
June	83	10	48	77	ALK	38	49	5	17	132	21	63	0.27
July	98	22	49	107	ALK	51	64	8	31	40	ALK	18	1.70
August	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September	134	29	87	169	17	79	140	10	70	163	44	79	0.88
October	152	58	95	130	69	89	188	20	63	138	52	86	0.72
November	200	56	115	188	12	109	177	22	78	188	40	93	0.83
December	86	22	47	356	17	166	102	20	49	243	24	95	0.51

RODENT CONTROL

The Council continued to employ a full-time rodent operative, and the service continued to give satisfactory coverage of the area. The number of farms and business concerns availing themselves of this service on a contract basis increased.

No serious infestations were found, undoubtedly due to the thorough and conscientious work of the operator and the co-operation of the public.

HOUSING

During the year the following units of accommodation were completed in the district by the local authority and private enterprise :

Council :

General and slum clearance, etc.	..	85
Houses for sale scheme	.. ..	86
<i>Private Enterprise</i>	.. ..	242
Total	.. ..	<hr/>413 <hr/>

At the end of the year the following units of accommodation were under construction :—

Council :

General and slum clearance, etc.	..	53
Houses for sale scheme	.. ..	106
<i>Private Enterprise</i>	.. ..	138
Total	.. ..	<hr/>297 <hr/>

During the year 84 applications for Standard Grants and twelve Discretionary Grants were received, and of these and others outstanding from 1962, 86 Standard Grants and ten Discretionary Grant were approved.

The amount of grant paid during the year was £8,281 in respect of 72 dwellings, and as a result 61 baths, 64 wash hand basins, 64 hot water supplies, 67 water closets and 27 food stores were provided.

Under the Council's Slum Clearance programme the following was carried out :—

Two Clearance Areas involving seven houses were declared, both were unopposed by the owners.

Action in respect of five individual houses was taken, and as a result two demolition orders were made ; two undertakings not to re-let were accepted, and one closing order was revoked. Eleven families were re-housed from properties included on the Council's Programme.

Under the Rent Act, 1957 two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received ; one was refused as the work was carried out, and an undertaking from the owner was given in respect of the other application.

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing List at the end of the year was 362, of which 103 were from people in lodgings. This may not represent the actual need as the list was under revision, and no doubt many on the original list who had not re-registered will do so.

FOOD PREMISES AND VEHICLES

The general standard of preparations rooms, shops and vehicles remained satisfactory, and shops with attractive displays in bright and clear plastic covered shelves and counters, etc., prepacked foods and frozen and other controlled cool cabinets benefit both the retailers and customers.

One firm only still continues to manufacture ice-cream, and samples taken were satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION

The 1st October, 1963 saw the coming into operation of the Meat Inspection Regulations, the main provisions being :—

- (a) Meat at slaughterhouses must be inspected.
- (b) Meat must not be removed from a slaughterhouse until it has been inspected.
- (c) Meat inspected and passed as fit for human consumption must be marked.
- (d) Local Authorities may charge for inspection.
- (e) The minimum period of notice of slaughter is extended from three hours to twenty-four hours.

A one hundred per cent. meat inspection was carried out from the commencement of the regulations, with the assistance of the Council's Additional Public Health Inspector Mr. C. A. Stanley, who commenced duties on the 1st November, 1963.

The general quality of meat in the area remained high, and the standard of working in the three licensed slaughterhouses satisfactory.

A total of 9,824 animals were inspected, and the amount of meat and offal found unfit totalled just over 19 cwts.

The following tables give analysis of the year's statistics :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1,642	38	130	5,983	3,578
Inspected	1,418	36	87	5,116	3,167
<i>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerous Bovis :</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	3	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	94	7	1	1	8
Percentage of number inspected affected, other than T.B. or Cysticerous Bovis	6.6	19.4	1.1	0.017	0.25
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	10
Percentage affected ..	—	—	—	—	0.28
<i>Cysticerous Bovis :</i>					
Cases found	—	—	—	—	—

Diseased Meat and Offals.

	Carcase meat				Offals			
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
<i>All diseases except Tuber- culosis :</i>								
Cattle		1	2	2		9	3	6
Cows		1	0	8			3	2
Sheep		1	1	13				14
Pigs		2	2	15				7
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>								
Pigs (heads)						2	0	4
Total		6	2	10		12	3	5

WORK COMPLETED AT PREMISES DURING THE YEAR 1963

Housing

Roof repaired or renewed.. ..	6
Chimney stack repaired or renewed ..	3
Eaves guttering and down spout repaired or renewed	5
External walls repaired or renewed ..	9
Walls plastered	20
Ceilings plastered	12
Windows repaired or renewed	16
Doors repaired or renewed	6
Stairs repaired or renewed	2
Floors repaired or renewed	4
Fire grates repaired or renewed	3
New sinks provided	3
Water supply provided	2
Water pipes repaired	15
Food Stores provided or repaired ..	3
Water closets provided or renewed ..	4
Water cisterns provided or renewed ..	5

Drainage

Drains cleansed	5
Drains repaired or reconstructed.. ..	11
Premises drained to sewer	1
Inspection chambers provided	5
New gullies provided	4

Food Premises

Structural repairs carried out	3
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Visits

Water Supplies	74
Drainage	135
Piggeries	4
Moveable dwellings.. ..	21
Factories	7
Refuse Disposal	2
Rodent Control	28
Atmospheric Pollution	201
Food Premises and Samples	92
Licensed Premises	3
Food Vehicles	16
Housing	253
Infectious Diseases	10
Meat Inspection	470
Petroleum Acts	14
Miscellaneous	12

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